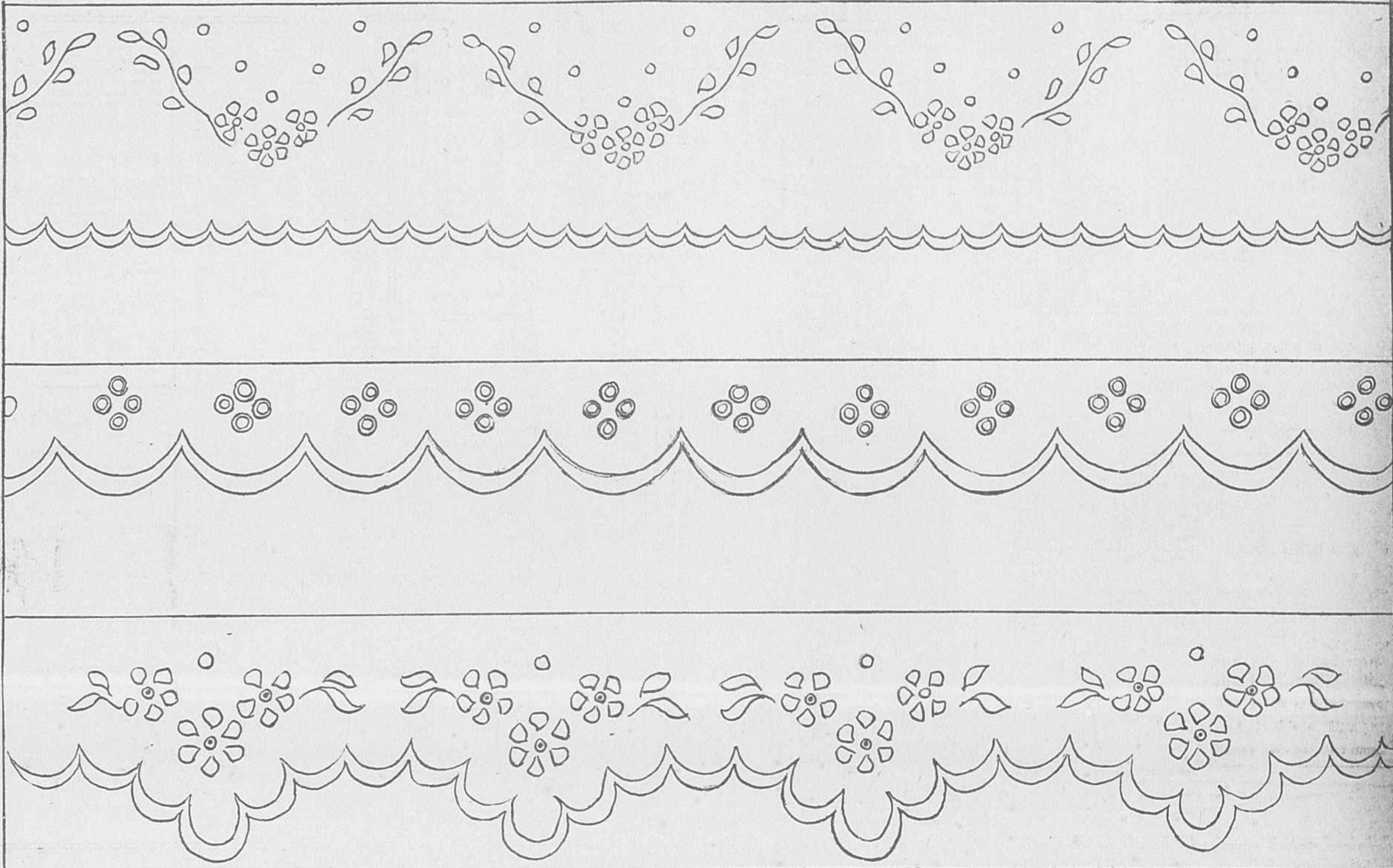


## Embroidery Scallops with Flower Sprays.



### The Home Harmonious.

### Modernizing an Old Mantel.

### By Anita de Campi.

### Instructions.

THE first thing one does upon buying an old house or moving into an old apartment building is to alter the old time mantel top. Ugly mantels of the extremely passé type, having brackets at the sides, mirrored center pieces with scroll edged frames and bits of oval mirrors under or over the brackets, are clearly indicative of age bordering on decrepitude.

All of the ornamentation of the over-mantel must be done away with if the interior is to be rejuvenated into anything that looks like "up to dateness."

Among the several hundred photographs of successfully executed interiors which I have before me none has a mantel piece with a built up top. All sorts of schemes are attempted to finish the space above the mantel shelf. The most attractive fashion is that of having a painting inset in the allotted space. The painting selected for the purpose usually is either a reproduction of an old floral piece in quaint style, showing a vase of large rich colored flowers on a dark ground, with a lacquered finish to make the piece look very old, or a fine old portrait, also properly aged with lacquer. The canvas is stretched upon the wall and edged with a molding.

Mirrors, while they no longer form a part of the mantel piece proper, are also effectively used above the shelf, or in some instances are framed and suspended above the shelf.

Sometimes the over-mantel space is simply shaped into a single large panel or into one square center panel and two small upright side panels by means of narrow wood moldings. The moldings are tacked on to the wall and then the whole space is painted, molding and all—or it may be calcimined.

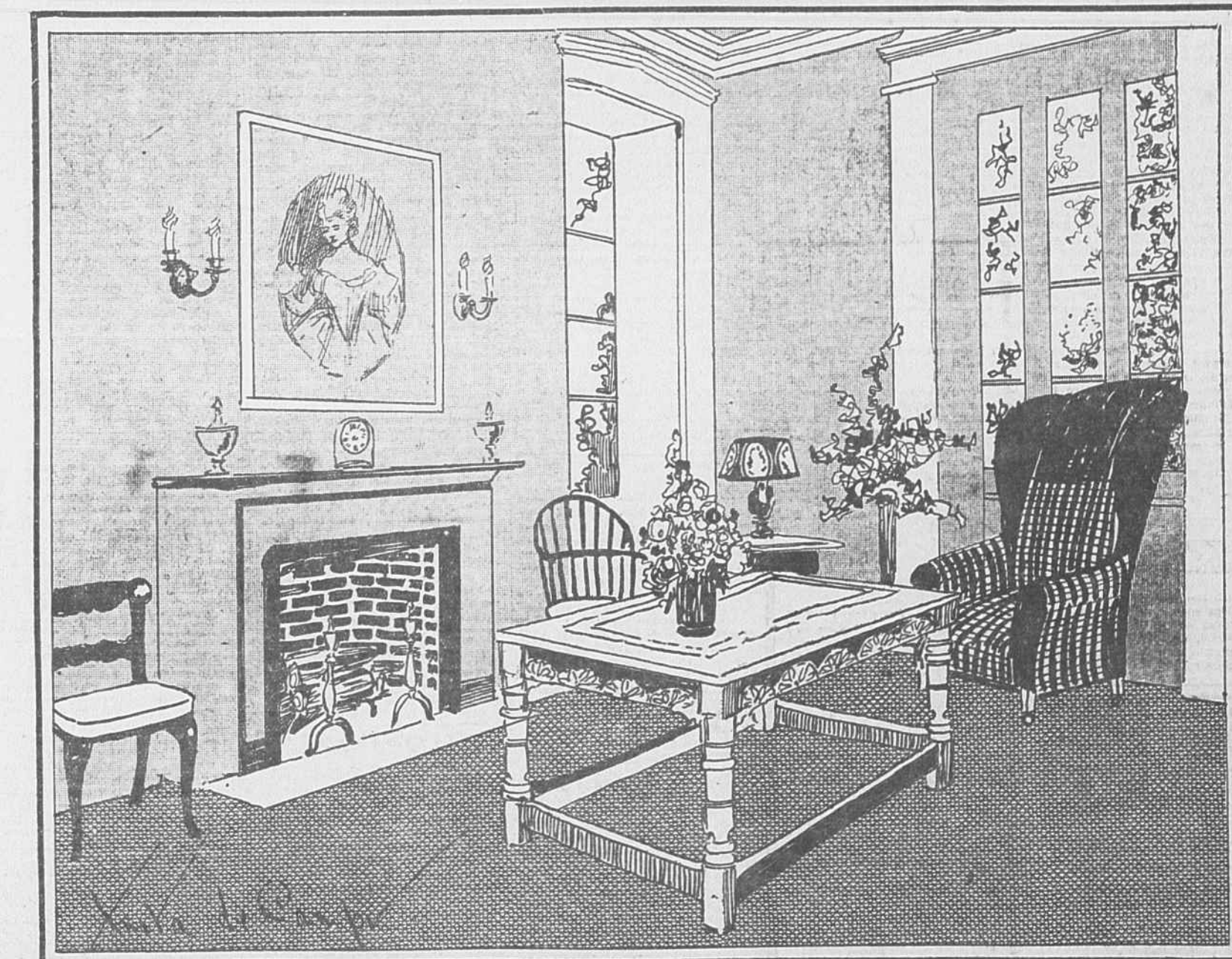
Plaster panels are used with telling result as over-mantel insets. These are particularly good with period furnishings, especially that of the Adam or the Louis XV. or XVI. periods.

A charming dining room furnished in William and Mary walnut furniture has wood paneling a little more than half way up the height of the side wall clear around the room. The woodwork is painted old ivory and the upper wall is violet blue. At one end of the room is the fireplace, with a mantel shelf extending the full width of the room, and above this the old ivory wood paneling is repeated clear up to the ceiling. The floor covering is gray green, with markings of fawn color and little flecks of ivory. The china is of purple luster and Wedgwood.

Striking indeed is a fireplace without a mantel shelf, but with the square area green (tint) that frames it extending in a flat, wide panel above the fireplace as high as the ceiling. Each tile has a white mark in its center, and they are put together with white cement lines. The floor covering and the casement curtains are of autumn red, and the dark brown furniture is upholstered in deep blue. The side walls are a light tobacco brown, and the woodwork is cream colored.

In colonial rooms the over-mantel is furnished with any one of the many good style colonial mirrors. The long horizontal mirror is most excellent in point of balance.

Lighting brackets are now placed at either side directly above the mantel shelf instead of on the wall outside of the mantels. Where it is not feasible to have wiring done for the actual electric candle fixtures wax candles in candlesticks are used.



More unique than pleasing is the arrangement of a French mirror below a mantel shelf, completely covering the gasolier, grate, and tiling of an old mantel piece. The mirror is divided into small oblong panels by narrow moldings of white enamel. Above the shelf is a painting of Mme. Pompadour, framed in a dull gilt frame. Candles with rose shades trimmed with gilt lace flank the portrait. These are attached to the wall. The picture frame just escapes the shelf, and no objects are on the mantel. The walls are paneled with moldings on white decorator's canvas. The furniture is upholstered in wistaria velvet, and the finely patterned carpet is of dull blue and taupe.

The mandates of present day good taste require but little bric-a-brac to be used on mantel shelves, and the little that is used to be bi-symmetric in arrangement. A center piece and two side pieces form the accepted mode. The center piece may be a vase, basket, or bowl of flowers, a small clock, or a carved box, and the side pieces may be a pair of urns, a pair of candlesticks, or a pair of vases—nothing more.

Many of these modes of over-mantel

finish seem difficult and expensive, but other methods are simpler. The main idea is to procure a restful effect by getting rid of all those tortuous lines—all of that undesirable mixture of beveled mirror and machine turned wood. This can be economically done by displacing the old top and finishing the space above the shelf with paper, paint, or calcimine to match the rest of the wall. A piece of fabric may be stretched above the mantel. I have seen a charming finish made of a breadth of dull colored velvet, edged with a flat band of dark gold galloon.

A breadth of machine made tapestry is also pleasing hung across the space. With this dull brass candlesticks topped with bayberry candles are used. This arrangement supplies a radical change in the appearance of the mantel, and its achievement would not involve the average householder in untoward expense.

#### ANSWERS TO INQUIRIES.

LOIS B.: If you lower your bedroom molding it will have the effect of lessening the height of your room. Use light yellow chambray curtains. Yes, I should

think a candlestick would look well on the table. Have you seen the painted glass ones? Why not buy one or two of these and try painting them yourself?

MRS. A. O. A.: I should advise using old ivory enamel rather than stain on the ground floor in your new home. If you have mahogany furniture upstairs, the mahogany doors would be pretty, but unless you are going to furnish with mahogany, use enamel doors like the rest of the woodwork. I would have the living room and reception hall alike and probably contrast the dining room. I

Already the practical needlewoman is considering her Christmas gifts. Today are published three scalloped edges. They are for petticoat flounces, lunch cloths, dresser covers, sheets, pillow cases, and children's underwear.

Commencing next week and running for four weeks will be an old English alphabet in crochet. All women who intend to do Christmas fancy work should not miss this alphabet.

In using the printed design from the paper the directions are as follows: If the material is sheer, the easiest way is to lay it over the design, which will show through plainly, and draw over each line with a hard, sharp pencil. If your linen is heavy, buy a piece of impression paper—the kind that does not rub off—lay it on your material, place the design over it, and trace with a hard pencil. You will find the design neatly transferred.

### One Guest Who Is Always Welcome.

DO you happen to know the person who somehow has such a happy knack of adapting herself to any and every circumstance? No matter whether she is at a children's party or a grownups' function, or merely a visitor, she is always just the person you want.

Hostesses are only too glad to welcome such a person, for immediately upon her arrival they feel that half their burden is taken away. Children always love her, and even those that are shy and timid will suddenly "come out" as soon as she starts talking to them.

She is just as successful in the company of grownups. The girl of 15 will simply adore her, the woman of mature age will think her delightful, while men are no less struck by her charming nature.

The old folks regard her as an indispensable companion, for she somehow just manages to do what others generally omit to do. This is because she always thinks of others rather than herself and her happiness rests in making others happy.

think you would be better satisfied with a detachable sideboard, which will permit you changing the style of furnishing in this room at any time.

MRS. H. P.: Have your woodwork enameled old ivory, the wall in the living room pearl gray, and the wall in the bedroom a light greenish gray.

MRS. Y. B.: Mulberry is a good color and a popular one. You are right in having for your side walls a neutral gray. The rose lamp should not clash with mulberry. Yes, the green tapestry will harmonize with mulberry. The large davenport with loose cushions is the most practical, as the cushions can be turned often, and thus the seats do not wear out, as the davenport seats do when the upholstery is made right in them. Have a taupe rug in your bedroom. Use tan and green striped silk or satin for your dining room windows.